

Hak Cipta Diindungi Undang-Undang

1. Dilarang mengutip sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini tanpa mencantumkan dan menyebutkan sumber:
 - a. Pengutipan hanya untuk kepentingan pendidikan, penelitian, penulisan karya ilmiah, penyusunan laporan, penulisan kritik atau tinjauan suatu masalah.
 - b. Pengutipan tidak merugikan kepentingan yang wajar UIN Suska Riau.
2. Dilarang mengumumkan dan memperbanyak sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini dalam bentuk apapun tanpa izin UIN Suska Riau.

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

One of the skills in learning English is reading, which is one of the crucial language skills that should be mastered particularly by English learners. By reading, people will acquire a lot of information, increase their knowledge, vocabulary, and experience, and develop other language skills. The more he/she reads, the more information he/she will get. To support this idea, Nunan (2003, p.68) says that reading is a fluent process of the readers combining information from a text and their own background knowledge to build meaning. It means that, by reading someone can find the information he/she needs with specific information.

In order to gain specific information, students at school should be taught how to read effectively and efficiently. Another way to help the students or readers to understand the text without knowing all the vocabulary in the text is by finding key words or clues that help to figure out the meaning of unknown or unfamiliar words. In addition, Lehr & Osborn in Fajar (2013) explains that to understand a text, the readers need to find out the key words of the text.

Context clues are hints found within a sentence paragraph or passage that a reader can use to understand the meanings of new or unfamiliar word. A reader must be aware that many words that have several possible

Hak Cipta Diindungi Undang-Undang

1. Dilarang mengutip sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini tanpa mencantumkan dan menyebutkan sumber:
 - a. Pengutipan hanya untuk kepentingan pendidikan, penelitian, penulisan karya ilmiah, penyusunan laporan, penulisan kritik atau tinjauan suatu masalah.
 - b. Pengutipan tidak merugikan kepentingan yang wajar UIN Suska Riau.
2. Dilarang mengumumkan dan memperbanyak sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini dalam bentuk apapun tanpa izin UIN Suska Riau.

meanings. Only by being sensitive to the circumstances in which a word used can the reader decide upon an appropriate definition to fit the context. The clue may appear within the same sentence. Because most of our vocabulary is gained through reading, it means that word or sentence reference all the text.

A number of research studies on second/foreign language reading have consistently confirmed the importance of reading strategies on developing language learners' reading comprehension skills. Zare (1998, p.63) in Othman states that strategy use is different in more and less proficient readers, who use the strategies in different ways. Moreover, it has been acknowledged that reading strategies can be teach to learners and that reading strategy instruction can benefit all readers and students to help them understand text books or other learning resources. By understanding context clues strategy, students can cover their vocabulary weaknesses and influence their reading comprehension.

As a foreign language, comprehending a text is one of the most difficult things. This may happen because the social and situation of where English is used do not support the learners to used English in their daily life situation. Asriyati (2011) states that the female students were able to understand more quickly than male students, they had higher motivation in learning English than male students. There are some linguists believe that there is a significant different between male and female students in language acquisition. For example, Papalia. et al (2008) states that male and female

Hak Cipta Diindungi Undang-Undang

1. Dilarang mengutip sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini tanpa mencantumkan dan menyebutkan sumber:
 - a. Pengutipan hanya untuk kepentingan pendidikan, penelitian, penulisan karya ilmiah, penyusunan laporan, penulisan kritik atau tinjauan suatu masalah.
 - b. Pengutipan tidak merugikan kepentingan yang wajar UIN Suska Riau.
2. Dilarang mengumumkan dan memperbanyak sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini dalam bentuk apapun tanpa izin UIN Suska Riau.

students have a comparison in some specific abilities such as verbal ability and mechanical ability.

Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai is one of schools in Riau which provides English lesson as a compulsory subject. At that school, English subject is taught once a week with time duration about 90 minutes. The minimum passing grade of Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai in English subject is 75. Both male and female students at Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai study in the same class and the teacher has taught them English subject. Based on the curriculum 2013 and the syllabus of the tenth grade students, reading in English subject focuses on descriptive text, there are two competences that must be achieved by the students: those are standard competence and basic competence.

The standard competence is to understand the meaning of paragraph or short essay in form of descriptive text and to identify the social function based on the context. Thus, the basic competence shows that students are able to understand the short of essay in form of descriptive text to describe characteristic of things, places, and person (BSNP, 2013:80). As statements above, it is clear that reading comprehension requires many aspects that must be mastered by the student; it means that if the students are not able to master the aspects that are necessary in reading as what is required by the curriculum, so learning reading process is not effective.

Based on preliminary study and interview with the teachers of English at the tenth grade students of Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai,

Hak Cipta Diindungi Undang-Undang

1. Dilarang mengutip sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini tanpa mencantumkan dan menyebutkan sumber:
 - a. Pengutipan hanya untuk kepentingan pendidikan, penelitian, penulisan karya ilmiah, penyusunan laporan, penulisan kritik atau tinjauan suatu masalah.
 - b. Pengutipan tidak merugikan kepentingan yang wajar UIN Suska Riau.
2. Dilarang mengumumkan dan memperbanyak sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini dalam bentuk apapun tanpa izin UIN Suska Riau.

it clearly proved that some of the male and female students faced the difficulties and problems in English especially in reading. Most of students had difficulties and problems to understand the texts, especially descriptive text, because they were difficult to understand the meaning of the text. Even though the students had read the text, some of the students were not able to identify information or knowledge needed. Actually, to understand the text and improve the students' ability in reading, the teacher had taught context clues to the students such as definition, restatement, example, cause effect, and contrast. However, there were some of the male and female students that had difficulties and problem in understanding descriptive text.

In accordance with the preliminary study which had been done by the writer at the tenth grade Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai, the writer has found the following phenomenon:

1. Some of the male and female students were not able to understand the meaning of descriptive text.
2. Some of the male and female students were not able to identify the information from descriptive text.
3. Some of the male and female students were not able to identify and differ the patterns of context clues in the descriptive texts.
4. Some of the male and female students were not able to predict the meaning of unfamiliar words from the text.
5. Some of the male and female students were not able to determine the meaning of synonyms, antonyms.

Hak Cipta Diindungi Undang-Undang

1. Dilarang mengutip sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini tanpa mencantumkan dan menyebutkan sumber:
 - a. Pengutipan hanya untuk kepentingan pendidikan, penelitian, penulisan karya ilmiah, penyusunan laporan, penulisan kritik atau tinjauan suatu masalah.
 - b. Pengutipan tidak merugikan kepentingan yang wajar UIN Suska Riau.
2. Dilarang mengumumkan dan memperbanyak sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini dalam bentuk apapun tanpa izin UIN Suska Riau.

6. Some of the male and female students were lack of vocabulary.

Based on the problems, it was clear that some of the students in the tenth grade at senior high school LKMD Sukaramai, had the problems on understanding of context clues. Therefore, the writer would like to investigate the problems into a research entitled “**The Comparison between Male and Female’s Understanding on Context Clues in Descriptive Text at Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai District of Tapung Hulu**”.

B. Problem

1. Identification of the Problem

- a. What were the causes that the students were not able to understand the meaning of descriptive text.
- b. What were the causes that the students were not able to identify the information from descriptive text?
- c. What were the causes that the students were not able to identify and differ the patterns of context clues in the descriptive texts?
- d. What were the causes that the students were not able to predict the meaning of unfamiliar words from the text?
- e. How did the students determine the meaning of synonyms and antonyms?
- f. What were the causes that the students were lack of vocabulary?

Hak Cipta Diindungi Undang-Undang

1. Dilarang mengutip sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini tanpa mencantumkan dan menyebutkan sumber:
 - a. Pengutipan hanya untuk kepentingan pendidikan, penelitian, penulisan karya ilmiah, penyusunan laporan, penulisan kritik atau tinjauan suatu masalah.
 - b. Pengutipan tidak merugikan kepentingan yang wajar UIN Suska Riau.
2. Dilarang mengumumkan dan memperbanyak sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini dalam bentuk apapun tanpa izin UIN Suska Riau.

2. Limitation of the Problem

In line with the identification of the problems above, the writer needs to limit the problems of this research. The writer only focuses to find out the difference of students' understanding on context clues in descriptive text based on definition, restatement, example, cause effect, and contrast between male and female at the tenth grade of Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai.

3. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, thus, the problems of this research are formulated in the following research questions:

- a. How is male students' understanding on context clues in descriptive text at the tenth grade of Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai?
- b. How is female students' understanding on context clues in descriptive text at tenth grade of Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai?
- c. Is there any significant difference of students' understanding on context clues in descriptive text between male and female at the tenth grade of Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai?

Hak Cipta Diindungi Undang-Undang

1. Dilarang mengutip sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini tanpa mencantumkan dan menyebutkan sumber:

- a. Pengutipan hanya untuk kepentingan pendidikan, penelitian, penulisan karya ilmiah, penyusunan laporan, penulisan kritik atau tinjauan suatu masalah.
- b. Pengutipan tidak merugikan kepentingan yang wajar UIN Suska Riau.

2. Dilarang mengumumkan dan memperbanyak sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini dalam bentuk apapun tanpa izin UIN Suska Riau.

C. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. Objective of the Research

- a. To know the male students' understanding on context clues in descriptive text at the tenth grade of Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai.
- b. To know the female students' understanding on context clues in descriptive text at the tenth grade of Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai.
- c. To know the significant difference of students' understanding on context clues in descriptive text between male and female at the tenth grade of Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai.

2. Significance of the Research

- a. To enlarge the writer's knowledge about the understanding of context clues in descriptive text between male and female students.
- b. It can provide useful information for the readers in conducting a research.
- c. Fulfilling one of the requirements to finish writer's study as a student of English Department in State Islamic University of Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau.
- d. These research are expected to be very meaningful, especially for the writer as a novice of learning how to conduct a research.

Hak Cipta Diindungi Undang-Undang

1. Dilarang mengutip sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini tanpa mencantumkan dan menyebutkan sumber:
 - a. Pengutipan hanya untuk kepentingan pendidikan, penelitian, penulisan karya ilmiah, penyusunan laporan, penulisan kritik atau tinjauan suatu masalah.
 - b. Pengutipan tidak merugikan kepentingan yang wajar UIN Suska Riau.
2. Dilarang mengumumkan dan memperbanyak sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini dalam bentuk apapun tanpa izin UIN Suska Riau.

D. Reasons for choosing the title

There are some reasons why the writer is interested in carrying out this research as follows:

1. The title of this research is relevant with the writer's status as a student of English education.
2. The problems of this research are not yet investigated by other previous writers.
3. The location of the research facilitates the writer in conducting the research.

E. Defenition of the Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation about the title of this research, it would be better for the writer to explain the term used.

1. Comparison

The way to describe the similarities and differences of two sets of items (Richards, 2010:364). In this research, it refers to the students' understanding on context clues in descriptive text between the male and female at the tenth grade of Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai.

2. Context Clues

Context clues can help the reader to figure out the meanings of unfamiliar words (McWhorter, 1986:3). Context clues is a strategy that can help readers to understand reading text by predicting unfamiliar words through clues.

Hak Cipta Diindungi Undang-Undang

1. Dilarang mengutip sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini tanpa mencantumkan dan menyebutkan sumber:
 - a. Pengutipan hanya untuk kepentingan pendidikan, penelitian, penulisan karya ilmiah, penyusunan laporan, penulisan kritik atau tinjauan suatu masalah.
 - b. Pengutipan tidak merugikan kepentingan yang wajar UIN Suska Riau.
2. Dilarang mengumumkan dan memperbanyak sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini dalam bentuk apapun tanpa izin UIN Suska Riau.

3. Descriptive text

Descriptive text is a text which providing details about characteristics of people, places, or thing. The details are intended to appeal to your senses, to help reader create a mental picture, or to make reader feel a certain way (McWhorter, 1986:133).

4. Male and Female

According to Feldman (2011 :343), male and female are kind of sex of human being or gender. In other words, male and female refers to the boys and girls who are studying in the school especially at the tenth grade of Senior High School LKMD Sukaramai.